STATE OF UTAH Utah State Tax Commission 210 North 1950 West Salt Lake City, UT 84134

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Restaurant Tax

Q: What is the definition of a restaurant?

A: A restaurant is any retail establishment whose primary business (more than 50 percent of the revenue) is the sale of prepared foods and beverages for immediate consumption.

Q: What are some common examples of restaurants subject to the restaurant tax?

- full-service restaurants
- coffee shops
- cafeterias
- full-service restaurants or cafeterias within department stores
- luncheonettes
- soda fountains
- fast-food restaurants, including their drive-up windows
- sidewalk vendors
- sellers who deliver the foods and beverages they prepare, such as pizza
- food concession stands such as those found in malls or stadiums
- catering facilities
- private clubs and taverns
- sale of food at dinner theaters or concerts
- food courts, (even if located in close proximity to a theater)
- college and university cafeterias open to the general public or employee cafeterias

Q: What does a restaurant NOT include?

- Establishments whose primary business is the sale of fuel or food items for off-premise, but not immediate, consumption.
- Theaters that sells food items. A theater is an indoor or outdoor location for the presentation of movies, plays, or musicals, but does not include a dinner theater.
- Establishments whose primary business is the sale of prepackaged boxes of candies, nuts or other items not intended for immediate consumption.
- Establishments exempt from sales tax because of such things as their religious or charitable nature.

Q: Where can I find Publication 55, Sales Tax Information for Restaurants?

A: http://tax.utah.gov/forms/pubs/pub-55.pdf

Q: Where can the restaurant tax returns be found on the internet?

A: http://tax.utah.gov/forms/current/tc-61f.pdf

Q: If my business meets the definition of a restaurant, what am I now required to do?

A: You are required to collect and remit the restaurant tax.

Q: What tax return do I file and when is it due?

A: The restaurant tax is reported and paid on Tax Commission form TC-61F or TC-61FV (Tourism, Recreation, Cultural, Convention Facilities & Car Rental Tax Return) and is due at the same time the business owner's sales and use tax return is due:

- Annual filers use form TC-61F
- Quarterly filers use form TC-61F
- Monthly filers use form TC-61FV

Q: Where in the Tax Code is the Restaurant Tax found?

A: Utah Code §59-12-602 through 59-12-603 and Administrative Rule R865-12L-17 authorizes county governments to impose a tourism tax of up to 1 percent on all sales of prepared foods and beverages by restaurants.

Q: Have all counties adopted the Restaurant Tax at 1%?

- Emery, Millard, Piute, and San Juan counties have not imposed the restaurant tax.
- Effective January 1, 2006 Utah County reduced their rate to .7 percent. Prior to that, Utah County's rate was .9 percent.
- All other counties have elected to impose the full 1 percent.

TC-61F has a full list of the counties and their applicable rates.

Q: Where can the restaurant tax Self-Review forms be found on the internet?

A: at http://tax.utah.gov/selfreview (select the Restaurant Tax link).

Q: Who do I contact during this project if I need additional assistance in determining if my business is a restaurant for purposes of this tax and I am responsible for filing TC-61F?

A: For this project you can contact any of the following Auditing Division personnel:

Ralph Hoggan, (801) 297-4759 Mark Long, (801) 297-4758 Matt Duke, (801) 297-4670